

# **MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

November 2, 2021  
10:00 a.m. to 12:02 p.m.  
Via Zoom

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **II. ROLL CALL**

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Rachel Collamore; Laura Cordes; Leo Delicata; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Kate Ende; Mark Eves; Jillian Jolicoeur; Sarah Lewis; Beth Pearce; Atlee Reilly; Judy Seals; Jeff Tiner, and Susan White

Department: Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; Bill Logan; Jenny Patterson; and Michelle Probert

Guests: Sharlene Adams; Julie Brennan; Natalie Childs; Jack Forbush; Brooke Holton; Robert Martin; Peggy Pinkham; Amanda Richards; Malory Shaughnessy, and Jessie Wright

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a.) Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet Review With Jenny Patterson**

- Jenny noted the comment period for the Proposed Chapter I, Section 6 has ended. Public comments are being reviewed.
- Chapter II, Section 97 has been adopted effective November 1, 2021.
- The Emergency rule for Chapter II, section 97 took effect November 1, 2021.
- Regarding the concerns of some providers regarding the rounding rule referenced in Chapter I, Section 1 that their systems will not have the capacity to bill a partial unit, a reminder that the rule has not yet been proposed. The approach being considered is outlined in the Rule Status Update for November on page 11 under Chapter I, Section 1. The rule will go out for public comment when it is proposed.
- Jillian asked if Maine will be able to implement the rounding rule immediately, or will the rule require a State Plan Amendment, and how long would SPA approval take? Michelle noted SPA approvals take roughly 6

months, however if CMS submits a request for additional information that stops the clock and it can take longer depending on the complexity of the rule. Jenny noted the Department will not be implementing the rounding rule changes prior to rule adoption.

**b) Communications Update**

- Sarah Grant provided an update on MaineCare communications.
- Liz Remillard is conducting Maine MOM outreach. The website is [www.mainemom.org](http://www.mainemom.org). In September, the program had presence on social media and some radio spots. More social media spots are planned over the winter.
- Work is under way on outreach to encourage enrollment in Cub Care and Katie Beckett.
- Other communications plans include Estate Recovery, Adult Dental, 2023 EVV requirements, COVID-19, and public charge. There is also a goal to add the option of receiving text communications.
- Rachel Dyer asked if the Department could focus on plain language. She noted members often feel overwhelmed by the volume and density of the information they receive. Sarah noted that there is an internal committee that reviews outgoing communications to be certain the information is clear.
- Rachel Collamore noted she seconds the clear member communication focus. She also noted that not being able to get a hold of someone when there are questions is a challenge.
- Laura Cordes noted it would be helpful if the MAC received a copy of anything rate related, as not all MAC members are signed up for the lists that are receiving rate reform communications.
- Kathy mentioned the list of providers accepting MaineCare is proving to be incorrect, so folks are having a challenge trying to reach out. Sarah will share that feedback and see what can be done.

**c) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert**

- The Department has issued communications to providers regarding billing guidelines for monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID 19. A member communications piece is also in draft.
- Michelle noted the Department is aware the workforce shortage is a dire situation. As part of the DHHS website there is a toolkit link for providers with resources, including guidance on staffing flexibilities. The link to the Toolkit is: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/recruitment-and-retention-toolkit>
- Laura Cordes inquired about HCBS FMAP. Michelle noted we are still in communication with CMS
- Michelle presented an overview of the rate system reform blog post <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/blog/dhhs-announces-mainecare-rate-system-improvements-2021-09-30> .

d) **Rate System Committee Update With Laura Cordes**

- The Rate System Committee met last month and will meet next on November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup>.

e.) **Provider Audits During COVID 19**

- Malory Shaughnessy noted that providers are often too stretched, workforce wise, to try and pull together all the components of an audit. She is wondering if there might be some flexibilities in some of the Licensing or MaineCare audits. Bill Logan noted the Department has many different units that perform audits, and he can only speak for Program Integrity and Case Mix reviews. CMS requires us to perform reviews and to follow up. CMS has not provided any state with the flexibility to cease doing reviews. For providers experiencing staffing shortages, we can provide the flexibility of allowing for a longer period of time to respond to a request for records. The Department will be sensitive to providers' requests for more time and try to be responsive to those requests.

g.) **Wrap Up**

- Rachel Collamore will chair the member access subcommittee.
- The next MAC meeting will be November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

h.) **Items From Guests.**

None

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver